

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT ENTITLED INDIA, A DEMOCRACY IN CHAOS, BY AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADOPTED AT JULY 30 MEETING IN CHICAGO.

2. QTE. FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES, THE AMERICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED AN ACTIVE AND FRATERNAL INTEREST IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT OF INDIA. PRIOR TO INDIAN INDEPENDENCE (1947), AMERICAN LABOR SUPPORTED THE EARLY EFFORTS OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONISTS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS TO FREE THEIR NATION FROM COLONIALIST RULE.

3. QTE. DURING INDIA'S WAR WITH COMMUNIST CHINA IN 1959, THE AFL-CIO DECLARED ITS SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN INDIA, AND OPPOSITION TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE IT WHETHER AT HOME OR ABROAD. THAT STATEMENT IS VALID TODAY.

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4. QTE. DESPITE STRONG ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE, THE POLITICS OF THAT NATION HAVE DRIFTED INTO SUCH CHAOS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, LED BY

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI, HAS IN EFFECT DECREED THE END OF DEMOCRACY AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE. INDIAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN JAILED WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS DEAD. INDIA HAS BECOME A POLICE STATE IN WHICH DISSENT, LIKE DEMOCRACY, HAS BEEN SMOTHERED.

5. QTE. THE AFL-CIO APPEALS TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT OF INDIA, AND THE GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE COUNTRY, TO RESTORE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY TO THIS NATION WHICH HAS BEEN THE HOPE OF A TORMENTED ASIA, AN HISTORICAL PLAYGROUND OF AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES.

6. QTE. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO WITHHOLD ALL AID AND ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNTIL POLITICAL DEMOCRACY IS RESTORED TO ITS PEOPLE. UNQTE. KISSINGER

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